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# The Ratiocination Inculcator

1999-2000 Academic Year, Number 3  
<http://www.clearlight.com/~ccs/logic/>

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## Personal Note

From time to time, I'll have personalized versions of the *The Rat* for each student. This is the first such version. The rest of this section is different for each student.

As you saw (or will see) on the mid-term report **FIELD**(child)'s overall average to date is **FIELD**(avg). This average is based on 4 individual assignments, 3 group assignments, 2 quizzes/tests, and class participation.

As best as I can tell so far, **FIELD**(child) **FIELD**(text)

## Where We've Been

Over the past several weeks we've covered several different subjects. The most important things we've covered are the definitions of argument, conclusion, and premise; the difference between valid and invalid deductive arguments; and the particulars of five specific argument forms. Three of these forms (modus ponens, modus tollens, and hypothetical syllogism) are valid. Two of these forms (asserting the consequent and denying the antecedent) are invalid. If you're interested in more information about any of these things, ask your child(ren) to show you the handouts from class.

Our Olympic events have included a scavenger hunt, volleyball, and archery.

## Where We're Going

For the next several weeks we'll be returning to the *Introductory Logic* text. We'll be studying various aspects of categorical syllogisms, and learning how to covert statements into one of 4 standard forms. We'll also learn about the square of opposition, and the various relationships between the 4 standard forms.

Some of the students are likely to find this material quite a bit more difficult than what we've covered so far. Others may find it easier. Overall, I

anticipate that grades in the class will go down some during this period, but I believe that everyone should be able to maintain a B or better average.

We will continue to have the Logic Olympics each Friday. Also, beginning this week, on each Tuesday, we'll be talking about the various types of informal fallacies. On the first such Tuesday, we'll overview a bunch of these fallacies, and then in subsequent Tuesday's we'll concentrate on specific ones. I believe that these classes should be especially interesting and enjoyable to the children. You might want to be on your toes, 'though, because I suspect that the students will be on the lookout for instances of these fallacies. Actually, I know they will be, because they will have assignments to do so.

## Closing Note

Once again, here is my contact information. My email address is <holloway@clearlight.com> .

My home phone number is 865-1082. If you call, please do so between 7:30-8:15 p.m. My phone number at work is 864-1701, but try to use this only if you're not able to send email or call me at home.

I am thoroughly enjoying teaching the students in the logic class.

Until next time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'Mh' in a cursive style.